

DOUGLAS-FIR/CREAMBUSH OCEAN-SPRAY/WHIPPLEVINE-SWO

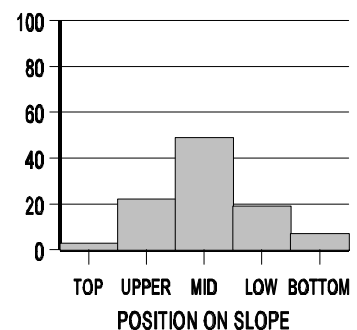
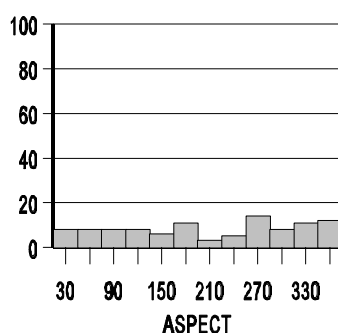
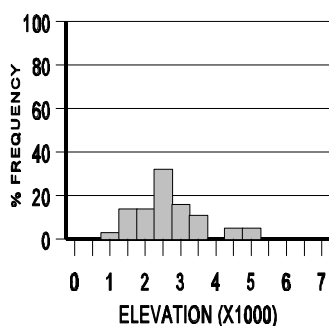
Pseudotsuga menziesii/Holodiscus discolor/Whipplea modesta

PSME/HODI/WHMO-SWO (N=42; BLM=42)



Distribution. This Association is scattered east of the Coast Range crest on dry sites. It occurs within the Grants Pass and Glendale Resource Areas, Medford District, Bureau of Land Management, and is common on the Galice and Illinois Valley Ranger Districts, Siskiyou National Forest. There may be occasional occurrences within the Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District, Bureau of Land Management, and the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest.

Distinguishing Characteristics. This Association occurs in the Siskiyou east of the coastal crest and possibly in the Cascades. Except for Pacific dogwood and big-leaf maple, the complement of species is characteristic of the dry side of the environmental gradient. Poison oak and whipplevine, at covers greater than 10 percent, are fairly faithful indicators of drier sites.



Soils. Parent material is generally mixed sediment or metavolcanic. Based on 41 samples, soil depth averages at least 15 inches. Textures are mostly loam and less often clay loam, silt loam, or sandy loam. Average rock fragment content is 41 percent. Most fragments (33 percent) are of gravel size.

Environment. Elevation ranges from about 500 to 3500 feet. The average is 2000 feet with a peaked distribution around the mean. This Association occurs equally on all aspects, but overwhelmingly occupies midslope topographic positions. Rarely does it occur on ridgetops or bottomland topographic positions. Slopes average about 58 percent. Average annual temperature is about 50 degrees F and average annual precipitation is about 47 inches. Approximately 1 percent of the forest floor is exposed bedrock, 57 percent is covered with litter, 3 percent is bare ground, and 16 percent is covered with moss.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness, low for the Series, is 32. The average number of species in all layers ranges from 27 to 41. Cover greater than 10 feet (3 meters) tall, usually trees, averages 74 percent. Tree cover less than 10 feet tall averages 8 percent; tall shrubs, greater than 20 inches (50 centimeters) tall, average 28 percent cover; low shrubs, less than 20 inches tall, average 30 percent cover; herb cover averages 8 percent. Douglas-fir dominates the overstory and understory layers. Both big-leaf maple and Pacific dogwood are notable as indicators of high atmospheric moisture usually associated with bottom slope positions. Canyon live oak, on the other hand, would be expected to occupy the upper slope positions. The shrub layer is dominated by dry site indicators (poison oak, hairy honeysuckle, creambush ocean-spray, and California hazel). Dwarf Oregongrape is the only contradictory indicator. It is found with higher cover on the sites with deeper soils. The herb/grass layer is also dominated by a dry site indicator, whipplevine. Although there are some herbs more commonly found on more moist sites, they are comparatively low in cover.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				2
Douglas-fir	PSME	95	41	
Pacific madrone	ARME	40	11	
<u>Understory trees</u>				4
Douglas-fir	PSME	98	17	
Canyon live oak	QUCH2	55	10	
Pacific dogwood	CONU4	52	21	
Pacific madrone	ARME	50	9	
Big-leaf maple	ACMA3	29	21	
<u>Shrubs</u>				8
Poison oak	RHDI6	90	9	
Baldhip rose	ROGY	88	1	
California hazel	COCOC	86	13	
Creambush ocean-spray	HODI	74	17	
Dwarf Oregongrape	BENE2	67	9	
Hairy honeysuckle	LOHI2	67	7	
<u>Herbs</u>				17
Whipplevine	WHMO	88	17	
Western Sword-fern	POMU	81	5	